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AGRO-MAN

A CANADA-MANITOBA PROGRAM



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Province
of Manitoba

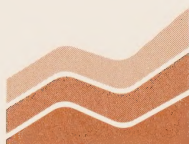
Province
du Manitoba

Regional
Economic
Expansion

Expansion
Économique
Régionale

Department
of Agriculture

Ministère
de l'Agriculture



AGRO-MAN supports the expansion of agriculture in Manitoba at all levels through the development of higher value crops and livestock. It touches upon many aspects of the industry, from improvement of the land base to new crops development to encouragement of greater processing potential.

Artist Kathy Friesen of Winnipeg has captured the vitality of AGRO-MAN in the crisp logo designed as the symbol to be used whenever AGRO-MAN is applied. The brown field represents the soil and land base which generates agricultural productivity; the green symbolizes the crops produced and the yellow band identifies their harvest. The upward motion incorporated into the logo expresses the continued growth of agriculture in Manitoba.

Miss Friesen, born and raised in Manitoba, is a graduate of the Advertising Arts program at Red River Community College.

The General Development Agreement

The importance of federal-provincial cooperation in economic development in Manitoba has been recognized for many years. The General Development Agreement (GDA) is the present umbrella agreement for cooperation in supporting economic growth and job creation. Under the GDA, Canada, through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Manitoba have four subsidiary agreements for economic development in the province.

The subsidiary agreements cover the northlands, administered by the Manitoba Department of Northern Affairs; tourism which is implemented through the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs; industrial development under the Department of Economic Development and value-added crops production administered by the Department of Agriculture.

This brochure is a description of the Canada/Manitoba Subsidiary Agreement on Value-Added Crops Production for agricultural development.



AGRO-MAN Programs

The AGRO-MAN Agreement seeks to maximize opportunities to increase the production and processing of value-added crops. Manitoba is well suited to the production of crops such as timothy, alfalfa, sunflowers and corn. The proven experience of our farmers in growing special crops, our location to markets, transportation services, processing industries, a ready labour force and climatic advantages support value-added crops production. Development activities are included in four program areas:

1. Value-Added Crops Investigation and Evaluation	\$ 800 000
2. Special Crops Products	\$ 3 000 000
3. Livestock Products	\$ 5 700 000
4. Land Resource Productivity Measures (Related Productivity Measures)	\$ 9 000 000
AGRO-MAN Total	\$ 18 500 000

Many projects and investigations are being developed in Manitoba's agricultural regions in consultation with individual producers and producer associations. On-farm demonstrations, regional trials and extension programs illustrate the methods and the potential of expanded production. Improvements of land and water management also are included. These activities provide new information to farmers on technical and managerial practices.

AGRO-MAN projects will help interested producers expand value-added crop and livestock production. Staff from the provincial departments of Agriculture and Mines, Natural Resources and Environment provide administrative and technical support for the projects. Agriculture Canada research station personnel and other staff made technical advice available.

Contact your local agricultural representative to obtain program information.

Program 1 — Value-Added Crops Investigation and Evaluation

Agriculture in Manitoba is changing, becoming more diversified as a result of new crop development and the introduction of new production technology. Funds for this program are used to investigate both the potential and the problems of expanding selected crops. It includes economic studies to deduce to determine the feasibility of production, plus evaluation of new technology and investigations identifying production problems. The Manitoba Department of Agriculture has responsibility for managing the investigations.

Program 2 — Special Crops Products

With the possibility of higher incomes, farmer interest in producing special crops has increased. Already our production of sunflowers, mustard and field peas leads other provinces. Manitoba is among the leading producers of rapeseed and our corn growing is expanding rapidly.

Projects to assist farmers in expanding and producing special crops such as corn, soybeans and potatoes are featured. Enlarging the production area of special crops, now concentrated in the southern and central parts of the province, is another objective. Specifically, the program will focus on:

- demonstrating cropping practices;
- investigating opportunities for production of selected crops;
- testing the adaptability of crops and varieties; and
- using improved technology for planting, harvesting and management.



Corn Production Both silage and grain corn are used extensively in livestock feeding. Considerable grain corn is needed for the distilling industry. Manitoba has been largely dependent on grain corn imports from the U.S. to meet these needs. However, excellent opportunities exist to increase our production to serve markets in Manitoba and Western Canada. The fact is, in 1978 we produced some 35,000 hectares (88,000 acres) of corn; yet there are an estimated 215,000 hectares (535,000 acres) suitable to its production. This in turn supports expansion of cattle finishing in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Corn Grower's Association will establish the on-farm production demonstrations in consultation with agriculture representatives and crop specialists of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Soybean Production Manitoba imports soybean oil and meal for use in food processing and as a livestock feed supplement. Although it has required a longer growing season, a new early maturing variety now makes soybean production more promising. Testing of the new variety to determine if it can be grown successfully is being done at sites in the eastern, central and southwest regions in cooperation with local farmers. The Altona CSP oilseed crushing plant is cooperating in the processing investigation. Variety performance is evaluated and production problems are identified. MDA crops staff are responsible for implementing this project.

Commercial Potato Production Some 16,000 hectares (40,000 acres) of potatoes are produced annually in Manitoba. Projects emphasize how to increase levels of production efficiency and the development of an assured supply of disease-free potato seed. The Keystone Vegetable Producers Association, Inc. and the Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba are involved with Manitoba Department of Agriculture assistance.

Crops Adaptation Trials Regional trials are comparing the adaptability of new varieties in special crops, forages, cereals and horticultural crops. Sites will be established in the northwest, southwest, central and Interlake over the five years of the AGRO-MAN Agreement. Producers are able to obtain information on crop performance in their own region and recommendations on improved varieties. Agriculture representatives can arrange special tour days of the project sites. The Plant Science Department, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Manitoba is operating these projects in cooperation with Agriculture Canada and MDA staff.

New Special Crop Production Horticultural and special crops have become important for some producers as an alternate income source. Investigations in this project measure the commercial viability of horticultural crops, pulses, essential oils, spices and greenhouse nursery crops. Projects are managed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Program 3 — Livestock Products

Greater efficiency in forage crop production is needed to sustain livestock output. The Livestock Products program emphasizes achieving efficiency through the adoption of new technology in forage production, handling and utilization. Program objectives include:

- improving grassland production;
- improving the handling and utilization of forage for livestock feed;
- investigating and demonstrating economical methods for on-farm storage, protection, processing and feeding of forage;
- clearing and developing unimproved lands with potential for forage production; and
- demonstrating recommended livestock production technology and management practices.



Grassland and Forage Production and Handling

Demonstrations Increasing forage land production results in expanded carrying capacity for livestock. This project shows the advantages of extending grassland-livestock production to increase forage utilization and finishing of livestock. It also includes demonstrations to develop native grasslands to increase grazing potential. The demonstrations evaluate herbicide and bush spraying effectiveness in reducing shrub and brush growth. On-farm trials of improved hay storage protection and alternative ways to store corn silage and high moisture grain may also be included. Recommended harvesting, storage and feeding practices can improve the nutritional value of forage by up to 30 percent.

All activities are implemented through the involvement of groups of farmers working with Department of Agriculture staff. Where on-farm demonstrations take place, shared arrangements are made with cooperating farmers to provide necessary supplies and equipment. Grassland specialists and local agricultural representatives are responsible for this activity.

Livestock Production Efficiency Demonstrations Modern technology and production practices can improve efficiency in the feeding, handling and husbandry of livestock. This project includes demonstrations of feeding methods and the use of handling facilities. New practices are incorporated into the farm operation where the demonstrations take place. Activities are implemented in co-operation with farmers and co-ordinated by MDA livestock specialists and agricultural representatives.

Tree Covered Rangeland Improvement Tree and bush coverage limits the potential production of native hay and grazing lands. Through this project, farmers are encouraged to develop their unimproved lands. Privately-owned lands are located primarily in the Eastern, Interlake, Westlake and Northwest areas of the province are eligible. Farmers are assisted in identifying lands for development and are offered technical advice on clearing, breaking and seeding.

Agricultural lands staff of MDA are responsible for implementing the tree covered improvement project. Further project information is available from agricultural representatives.

Forage Seed Production Good forage is necessary for proper livestock feeding and quality seed is required for forage production. Manitoba, with its proven capacity for growing forage seed has the opportunity to increase production and reduce dependence on imported seed supplies. To support additional production, on-farm demonstrations of up-to-date forage seed production and management practices are being conducted. The project is being carried out by MDA extension staff working with seed industry representatives and producer groups.

Program 4 — Land Resource Productivity Measures (Related Productivity Measures)

Excess soil moisture and low soil productivity affect high value crop production. Demonstrations on removing or reducing these limitations through irrigation are proposed primarily in three crop production zones: Southeast, Assiniboine-South and Portage-Carberry. These zones and other areas in southern Manitoba have climatic conditions suitable for value-added crops, but are limited in output because of field ponding, drought or other constraints. Projects include water management, organic soil productivity, a wet sands management study and irrigation investigations.



Water Management In four watershed areas, major drainage construction projects to reduce or remove land susceptibility to excess moisture conditions are being developed. As a result a wider range of crops and increased crop yields are anticipated. The designated areas are Cook's Creek, Marsh River, La Salle River, and Morris River.

Municipal authorities, farmers and representatives of various interested agencies serve on committees established to consider matters relating to each watershed project. The Water Resources Division, Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment is implementing this project.

Organic Soil Productivity Potential exists for organic soils to produce yields comparable to mineral soils. Although Manitoba has over 2.8 million hectares (7.6 million acres) of organic soils with some potential for crop production, development has been limited. Investigations during the AGRO-MAN Agreement, will test crop productivity of organic soils primarily in the Eastern region. Department of Agriculture staff are responsible for this investigation.

Domain Crop Area Demonstration This demonstration is intended to determine the level of crop production which can be reached with a comprehensive land and water management system. The Domain Watershed is ideal because of its compact size, variations in productivity and the availability of existing data. Local government authorities are participating in arranging the project. The demonstration is co-ordinated by the Water Resources Division and the provincial department of Agriculture.

Irrigation Investigations Irrigation is important for the expansion of vegetable and special crops. This study investigates and develops recommendations on the most suitable methods for applying irrigation water. Economic benefits, cropping practices, equipment design and irrigation procedures are evaluated. The University of Manitoba, Faculty of Agriculture is playing a major role in this project.

Almassippi Wet Sands Management It is intended to investigate methods of improving crop production on light sandy soils. Controlled drainage measures are to be developed and tested. Productivity changes will be studied and recommendations will be made for future crop production on these soils. Personnel from the Water Resources Division, Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment are responsible for this study.

More Information

If you are interested in learning more about any of the projects or demonstrations being implemented under the AGRO-MAN Agreement contact your local Manitoba Department of Agriculture Representative.



